

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NOVA SCOTIA GENERAL ELECTION CALLED

1. PREMIER GERALD REGAN HAS CALLED A NOVA SCOTIA GENERAL ELECTION FOR TUESDAY, SEPT 19. THE ELECTION CALL WAS MADE ON THE EVENING OF AUG 12, A FEW HOURS AFTER LT-GOV CLARENCE GOSSE SIGNED A WRIT DISSOLVING THE 28TH LEGISLATURE OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. AT DISSOLUTION, PARTY STANDINGS IN THE HOUSE WERE LIBERALS 30, CONSERVATIVES 12, NDP 3, AND ONE VACANT. SIX NEW SEATS, FOR A NEW TOTAL OF 52, WILL BE AT STAKE IN THE SEPT 19 ELECTION. THE JUNE REDISTRIBUTION ADDED FOUR NEW SEATS IN THE HALIFAX AREA--THE LIBERAL POWER BASE--AND ONE EACH IN COLCHESTER AND CAPE BRETON COUNTIES.

2. THE MAIN ISSUES IN THE ELECTION WILL BE THE ECONOMY, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND ENERGY COSTS. THE LIBERALS CAN BE EXPECTED TO POINT OUT THAT THERE ARE EXTERNAL CAUSES FOR STAGFLATION, HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, AND THE HIGH COST OF ELECTRIC POWER, BUT THAT UNDER THEIR WISE STEWARDSHIP HARDSHIPS HAVE BEEN MINIMIZED. REGAN WILL POINT WITH PARTICULAR PRIDE TO HIS NEWLY-ANNOUNCED PLAN TO USE EARNINGS FROM THE ATLANTIC LOTO TO FINANCE
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A THREE-YEAR PROGRAM OF SUBSIDIES TO POWER CONSUMERS, THUS EASING SOMEWHAT THE POWER RATE INCREASES GRANTED TO THE NOVA SCOTIA POWER CORPORATION. THE OPPOSITION PARTIES WILL CLAIM THAT OVERSTAFFING AND MISMANAGEMENT WITHIN BOTH THE PROVINCIAL GOVT AND THE NOVA SCOTIA POWER CORPORATION SHOW THE NEED FOR BETTER FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND A RUTHLESS TRIMMING OF GOVT SPENDING.

THEY WILL ALSO POINT TO SUCH GOVT ERRORS AS THE PURCHASE OF "MERCATOR ONE", THE CRUISE SHIP WHICH COST THE PROVINCE CDOLS 6.5 MILLION AND WHICH IS QUIETLY RUSTING AT ANCHOR UNTIL SUCH TIME AS LAWSUITS RELATING TO IT ARE CONCLUDED AND A PURCHASER CAN BE FOUND.

3. COMMENT: THE MOOD OF THE ELECTORATE THROUGHOUT MUCH OF THE WESTERN WORLD SEEMS TO BE SURLY. BATTERED BY RISING PRICES AND THREATENED WITH UNEMPLOYMENT, VOTERS EVERYWHERE SEEM TO BE LOOKING FOR NEW LEADERS AND NEW POLICIES. REGARDLESS OF THE SIZE OF ITS PRESENT MAJORITY, NO PARTY CURRENTLY IN POWER CAN BE ENTIRELY CONFIDENT THAT IT WILL BE RETURNED TO POWER IN AN ELECTION. THE POLLS IN NOVA SCOTIA FAVOR THE LIBERALS AND THIS OFFICE BELIEVES THAT THEY WILL BE RETURNED TO POWER WITH ANOTHER COMFORTABLE MAJORITY. REMEMBERING THE RECENT PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ELECTION, HOWEVER, WHERE THE FAVORED LIBERALS WERE RETURNED TO POWER ONLY BY THE SKIN OF THEIR TEETH, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS NOVA SCOTIA ELECTION COULD ALSO BE A SQUEAKER.
END COMMENT.
MOORE

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